

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of selecting a digital photographic service provider from a plurality of different service providers and providing a photographic image service with respect to at least one digital image located at a user location remote from said selected photographic service provider, comprising:

- a) providing a services directory which includes entries for a plurality of different service providers;
- b) said user providing a criterion for selection of a service provider;
- c) automatically providing the requester with a list of one or more of said plurality of different service providers based on said criterion;
- d) said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list;
- e) providing a request for a desired service to the selected service provider; and
- f) providing of said desired service by said selected service provider.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the criterion comprises a location of a designated recipient.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the criterion is selected from at least one of the following:

- Brand of image capture device
- Language
- Retailer
- Cost of service
- Specific Product characteristics
- Delivery time
- Delivery method
- Delivery reach

Specific provider characteristics

Access time

Ability to ship to specific location.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said automatically providing of said list is accomplished through the use of a locator service.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said list includes service information for each of the service providers

6. The method according to claim 1 further including the step of providing an icon for the selected service provider

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the icon for the selected service provider is displayed in a user interface screen.

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the icon for the selected service provider is displayed in place of a generic icon.

9. The method according to claim 7 wherein the icon for the selected service provider comprises a trademark.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list further comprises displaying a list of service providers and service information for at least one of the listed service providers .

11. The method according to claim 1 wherein said criterion is directly associated with data included in the digital image file.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said data includes the camera manufacturer

13. A method according to claim 1 wherein the service provider is positioned on the display screen of imaging client according to a business criteria.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said business criteria is based on a retailer who sold the digital camera.

15. A method according to claim 13 wherein said business criteria is based on a digital camera make.

16. A method according to claim 13 wherein said business criteria is based on a language selected by the user.

17. A method according to claim 1 further including the step of selected digital images captured by the digital camera

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the selected service is producing hardcopy prints of the selected images.

19. A method according to claim 18 further including the step of selecting a print quantity for the selected images.

20. A system for providing imaging services over a communications network, including:

- a) a first device having a user interface for receiving commands from a user and a network interface,

- b) a plurality of different service providers connected to said communication network,
- c) a computer having a network interface for communication to said first device over said communication network, wherein said computer having a services directory having entries for a plurality of different service providers, each of said plurality of different service providers having associated information,
- d) wherein the user, using said first device, provides at least one criterion
- e) said computer automatically provides a list of at least one of said plurality of different service providers based on the criterion, using said associated information,
- f) said selected service provider providing said requested service.

21. A computer software product for linking a digital camera user to a service provider selected from a plurality of service providers, said computer software program will when loaded on to a computer will cause the computer to do the following steps:

- a) providing a services directory which includes entries for a plurality of service providers;
- b) communicating at least one criterion from the digital camera user;
- c) automatically providing the digital camera user with a list of one or more of said plurality of different service providers based on the criterion;
- d) said digital camera user selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list;
- e) providing a request for a desired service to the selected service provider,
- f) providing of said desired service by said selected service provider.

22. A method of linking a digital photographic imaging service requester to a service provider selected from a plurality of different service providers that are registered in a member system, comprising:

- a) providing a services directory which includes entries for a plurality of services, each service associated with at least one of said plurality of different service providers;
- b) the service requester providing at least one digital image and at least one criterion;
- c) automatically providing the requester with a list of one or more of said plurality of different service providers based on said criterion;
- d) said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list;
- e) providing a request for a desired service and providing said digital image to the selected service provider, and
- f) providing of said desired service by said selected service provider.